

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Circular saw machine comprising a saw blade (1) and a drive shaft (2) to which the saw blade is removably and interchangeably mounted, and at least one rearward saw blade guide (4) and at least one forward saw blade guide (5) that contact two side surfaces of the saw blade (1), the saw blade guides (4, 5) respectively have at least one contact surface (6) to be abutted on the respective side surface of the saw blade (1), and for sawing, the drive shaft (2), with the saw blade thereon, is rotated in a drive housing arranged for back and forth movement in a rotation plane of the blade,

the forward saw blade guide (5) is connected to the drive housing so that[:

a]]] the forward saw blade guide is removable from the saw blade (1), and the forward saw blade guide is selectable from a plurality of interchangeable plates having different spacings between the contact surfaces (6) and the drive shaft so that a radial distance between the contact surfaces (6) of the saw blade guides (4, 5) and the drive shaft (2) is respectively adjustable in predetermined defined positions for matching different diameter saw blades; or

b) ~~the forward saw blade guide is pivotable away from the saw blade (1), and the contact surface (6) of at least one of the saw blade guides (4, 5) is installed on a mounting (12) that is pivotable in a direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade on the saw blade guide (4, 5), with the mounting (12) being fixable at a plurality of predetermined pivot angles so that a radial distance between the contact surfaces (6) of at least one of the saw blade guides and the drive shaft (2) is respectively adjustable in predetermined positions for matching different diameter saw blades.~~

2. (Currently amended) Circular saw machine according to claim 1, wherein the forward saw blade guide is pivotable away from the saw blade and a distance between the rearward saw blade guide (4) and the forward saw blade guide (5) is adjustable for matching to different thicknesses of the saw blade (1).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) Circular saw machine according to claim 1, wherein the rearward saw blade guide (4) is selectable from a plurality of interchangeable plates with different spacings between the contact surfaces (6) and the drive shaft.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously presented) Circular saw machine comprising a saw blade (1) and a drive shaft (2) to which the saw blade is removably and interchangeably mounted, and at least one rearward saw blade guide (4) and at least one forward saw blade guide (5) that contact two side surfaces of the saw blade (1), the saw blade guides (4, 5) respectively have at least one contact surface (6) to be abutted on the respective side surface of the saw blade (1), and for sawing, the drive shaft (2), with the saw blade thereon, is rotated in a drive housing arranged for back and forth movement in a rotation plane of the blade, the forward saw blade guide (5) is connected to the drive housing so that the forward saw blade guide is pivotable away from the saw blade (1); a radial distance between the contact surfaces (6) of the saw blade guides (4, 5) and the

drive shaft (2) is respectively adjustable in predetermined defined positions for matching different diameter saw blades, at least one of the saw blade guides (4, 5) is installed on a mounting (12) that is pivotable in a direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade on the saw blade guide (4, 5), with the mounting (12) being fixable at a plurality of predetermined pivot angles, the forward saw blade guide (5) is pivotable away from the saw blade (1) by a hinge (8), a hinge pin located along a pivot axis of the hinge (8) being adjustable by an eccentric mounting in order to set a distance between the rearward and the forward saw blade guides (4, 5) for matching different thicknesses of the saw blade (1).

8. (Original) Circular saw machine according to claim 7, wherein the forward saw blade guide (5) at a point spaced apart from the hinge (8) near the saw blade (1) is connected by a spacer (9) to the rearward saw blade guide (4) or a retaining device (10) rigidly fixed relative thereto, the spacer (9) being at least one of interchangeable and adjustable.

9. (Original) Circular saw machine according to claim 8, wherein the spacer (9) is formed such that, depending upon an orientation with which the spacer is assembled, a predetermined wider or narrower distance between the forward and the rearward saw blade guides (4, 5) is provided.

10. (New) Circular saw machine comprising a saw blade (1) and a drive shaft (2) to which the saw blade is removably and interchangeably mounted, and at least one rearward saw blade guide (4) and at least one forward saw blade guide (5) that contact two side surfaces of the saw blade (1), the saw blade guides (4, 5) respectively have at

least one contact surface (6) to be abutted on the respective side surface of the saw blade (1), and for sawing, the drive shaft (2), with the saw blade thereon, is rotated in a drive housing arranged for back and forth movement in a rotation plane of the blade, the forward saw blade guide (5) is connected to the drive housing so that the forward saw blade guide is pivotable away from the saw blade (1), and the contact surface (6) of at least one of the saw blade guides (4, 5) is installed on a mounting (12) that is pivotable in a direction parallel to the plane of the saw blade on the saw blade guide (4, 5), with the mounting (12) being fixable at a plurality of predetermined pivot angles so that a radial distance between the contact surfaces (6) of at least one of the saw blade guides and the drive shaft (2) is respectively adjustable in predetermined positions for matching different diameter saw blades.

11. (New) Circular saw machine according to claim 10, wherein a distance between the rearward saw blade guide (4) and the forward saw blade guide (5) is adjustable for matching different thicknesses of the saw blade (1).

12. (New) Circular saw machine according to claim 10, wherein the rearward saw blade guide (4) is selectable from a plurality of interchangeable plates with different spacings between the contact surfaces (6) and the drive shaft.